

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were previously pending, of which claims 2-3 have been cancelled and claims 1, 11, and 21 have been amended. Reconsideration of presently pending claims 1 and 4-21 is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over US Patent No. 5,787,175 (“Carter”). With respect to the claims as herein amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, amended, recites “linking the member definition to a first data portion of a document, wherein the document has the first data portion and a second data portion” and “allowing access to only the first data portion in accordance with the access right.”

In contrast, Carter does not draw a distinction between allowing access to the whole document versus allowing access to a first data portion of a document. In particular, the Examiner has referenced Figure 9, and ref Num 162. The cited reference, Fig. 9, reference 162 of Carter, states “Decrypt Document.” The text describing Fig. 9, reference 162 is similar: “During a data-decrypting step 162, this copy of the document key is then used . . . to decrypt the encrypted data portion 94 of the collaborative document 90, thereby providing the collaborative group member access to the information stored in the document 90.” (Carter, col. 17, ll. 5-10). Both Fig. 9 and the associated text in Carter refer to the data in the document as a whole, as opposed to “allowing access to only the first data portion.”

Therefore, the rejection is not supported by the Carter reference and should be withdrawn. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 11 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Carter. With respect to the claims as herein amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11, as amended, recites “an access controller that receives a request from the first user for access to the document, wherein the access controller locates the first member definition and allows access to the first data only.”

In contrast, Carter does not draw a distinction between allowing access to the whole document versus allowing access to the first data only. In particular, the Examiner has referenced Figure 9, and ref Num 162. The cited reference, Fig. 9, reference 162 of Carter, states “Decrypt Document.” The text

describing Fig. 9, reference 162 is similar: “During a data-decrypting step 162, this copy of the document key is then used . . . to decrypt the encrypted data portion 94 of the collaborative document 90, thereby providing the collaborative group member access to the information stored in the document 90.” (Carter, col. 17, ll. 5-10). Both Fig. 9 and the associated text in Carter refer to the data in the document as a whole, as opposed to “allows access to the first data only.”

Therefore, the rejection is not supported by the Carter reference and should be withdrawn. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 21 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Carter. With respect to the claims as herein amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11, as amended, recites “allowing access only to the first portion of the document in accordance with the first access right, or allowing access only to the second portion of the document in accordance with the second access right.”

In contrast, Carter does not draw a distinction between allowing access to the whole document versus allowing access to the first data only. In particular, the Examiner has referenced Figure 9, and ref Num 162. The cited reference, Fig. 9, reference 162 of Carter, states “Decrypt Document.” The text describing Fig. 9, reference 162 is similar: “During a data-decrypting step 162, this copy of the document key is then used . . . to decrypt the encrypted data portion 94 of the collaborative document 90, thereby providing the collaborative group member access to the information stored in the document 90.” (Carter, col. 17, ll. 5-10). Both Fig. 9 and the associated text in Carter refer to the data in the document as a whole, as opposed to “allowing access only to the first portion of the document in accordance with the first access right, or allowing access only to the second portion of the document in accordance with the second access right.”

Dependent Claims

Dependent claims 4-10 and claims 12-20 respectively depend from and further limit claim 1 and claim 11 and therefore are deemed to be patentable over the prior art. Claims 4-10 and 12-20 are also believed to be distinct from the art of record, for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 11.

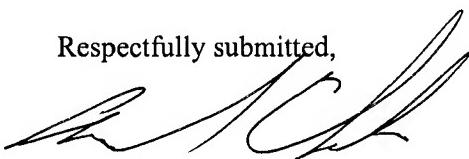
Serial Number: 10/734,935
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Conclusion

An early formal notice of allowance of claims 1 and 4-21 is requested. A personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues in an effort to expedite the allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office via EFS-Web on the following date.

Date: December 7, 2007


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